



PRESS RELEASE

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Friends and family experience KH Sailors' daily lives

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Roob, Kitty Hawk public affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, At sea— USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), Carrier Air Wing 5, Task Force 70 Sailors brought nearly 2,200 guests with them to sea for a day on its “Friends and Family Day Cruise” Sept. 17.

Kitty Hawk pulled out of Yokosuka, Japan, around 7 a.m. while many groups were still eating breakfast in the hangar bay. Tours of the carrier's main attractions began shortly after departure and lasted most of the day.

“We saw the forecastle, CDC, the flight deck and the chief's mess,” said Darren Head, who, along with his wife Laura Head, was a guest of Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AW) Charles Chatman. “CDC was my favorite. I liked to see how the machines operate and how they track everything.”

The combat direction center uses computer systems to gather information used to plan offensive and defensive operations.

The day's main event was the afternoon air show. Ship's visitors first watched almost one hour of launches, recoveries, and “touch and go's” simulating day-to-day flight operations aboard Kitty Hawk that also included various aerial displays and formation flights in the skies above. The airshow culminated in a one hour F/A-18F Superhornet high-performance aerial demonstration.

“The air show was great,” said Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW) Timothy Whittenburg, who brought his girlfriend, Sachiko Nakamura, with him on the cruise. “Today's show was far better than the others I've seen at my previous commands.”

As soon as flight operations ended, Kitty Hawk's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division stepped in to entertain visitors with various movies and games. A seven-man ensemble from the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet Band also provided live musical entertainment for the assembled guests in one of Kitty Hawks' two crowd-filled hangar bays.

The day's festivities came to a close around 5 p.m. when the carrier returned to Yokosuka.

"This is my husband's third carrier, and the 'Friends and Family Day Cruise' is always enjoyable no matter what carrier it's on," said Denise Turner, Lt. Johnny Turner's wife. "As a spouse, I am astonished at how the mechanics of the floating city evolve each day."

The strike group includes the Kitty Hawk, the aircraft squadrons and staff of Carrier Air Wing 5, the guided-missile cruisers USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and Cowpens (CG 63), and Destroyer Squadron 15 staff. The group's ships and destroyer squadron staff are based at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, and the air wing and staff are based at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

To find more news about the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63/.